



July
2023



A Monthly Newsletter for Friends of Dog Guides

Thanks for your support of the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the 2022/2023 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. We are currently working on reconciling all of the online and offline donations, and the final walk total will be announced later in July. Thanks again for all of your support and dedication to the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides.



2023 Oakville Ride for Dog Guides was a huge success

Thank you to our riders, donors, Ride committee, Lions Clubs, sponsors, volunteers, LFCDG staff and Foster Families for all of your support in this year's event! Our 2023 Ride total is \$31,067.30. Thank you again for your commitment to our Ride for Dog Guides!



Contact us • www.dogguides.com



Media Interviews for Graduates

A reminder to all graduates, if you are asked to be featured in any type of media, please let your instructors and our communications team know in advance. If you are doing a media interview, we want to provide you with support and all the information you may need. Please let Maria Galindo know whenever you have a media opportunity come up. She can be reached at mgalindo@dogguides.com.

Dog Guide Recipients in Canada Study

The University of Saskatchewan is looking for volunteers to take part in a study of the lived/living experience of Canadians with a Dog Guide in Canada. Graduates are welcome to participate, and will have a chance to enter a prize draw at the end. Complete the 35 minute [online questionnaire](#). Any questions about the study can be sent to Linzi Williamson at linzi.williamson@usask.ca.



Summer Holiday Hours - Canada Day

Please see below for LFCDG's holiday hours for the Canada Day Holiday

- Friday, June 30th: closed after 12 p.m.
- Monday, July 3rd: Closed

Summer Safety Tips

As temperatures rise, it's important to understand how to keep Dog Guides and foster puppies safe, cool and healthy. Here are some tips to help the pups beat the summer heat.

Heat Safety:

- Signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke include excessive panting, red-coloured gums, thick ropery saliva, heavy panting, lethargy and red "flushed" skin around ears, muzzle and underbelly. Call your veterinarian if you notice these signs.
- If a dog is really hot/ overheating, do not hose them down. Lowering a dog's skin and surface temperature too suddenly can result in further heating of their internal organs and lead to heatstroke.
- Limit outside activity time if it is really hot or humid. Remember to rest in the shade and drink plenty of water.
- Walk in the early mornings or evenings to decrease the risk of paw burns and overheating.
- Labs/ golden retrievers use their coats to regulate heat, so it is important not to clip them.
- NEVER leave a dog unattended in a hot car.

Water/ Beach Safety:

- Not all dogs enjoy swimming... Do not try to force them into any body of water. NEVER leave them unattended around open water.
- Swimming pools are not recommended as chlorine can irritate their skin, and salt water can dry it out.
- Always dry/ clean out their ears after swimming to avoid infection.
- Be aware of water intoxication, when too much water is consumed in a short period of time. Signs to watch out for include lethargy, vomiting, lack of coordination, bloating, glazed eyes and excessive salivation.
- When visiting the beach, never allow a your Dog Guide or foster puppy off-leash. Be aware of hazards such as ticks, sand fleas, and hidden sharp objects in the sand.
- Hot sand can also burn a dog's paws.

With these tips in mind, we hope you and the dogs have a safe and joyful summer.

Sitters Needed for Day School Program

Want to help a Dog Guide succeed and make it through their training at Dog Guides University? By becoming a Day School Sitter, you will be looking after a dog in training who needs a break from the kennels. Staying in a kennel environment may not be for all dogs. Some Dog Guides in training may exhibit signs of stress which can interfere with their progress. Thanks to the sitting program, Norman will be able to graduate with honours!

"Norman, training in the Autism Assistance program, was extremely stressed. In the kennels he would pace, bark, pant and wouldn't be able to settle down. He escalated to the point where he was taking so long to recover after leaving the kennel, he wasn't able to progress in training and was showing undesirable behaviours," explains Alana Duarte, Norman's trainer. "



Once he was matched with his sitters Bill and Linda, Norman started changing for the better. Within a few days he was able to focus on learning new skills, he became calmer overall and less distracted, and became quite laid back. He's a very different dog now!."

Sitters must live in close proximity to our Oakville or Guelph facilities. Volunteers would bring the dog back and forth to our training facility Monday-Friday, and would provide housing for the dog each weekend, including statutory holidays.

Become a Day School volunteer and help Dog Guides in training succeed! If you are interested in applying and learning more info, please visit [Specialty Sitter Volunteer Program](#)

Adopt a “Career Changed” Dog from LFCDG

Not all our dogs are meant to be working Dog Guides, and that's okay! Some dogs may not have the right personality, health or temperament for a life as a Dog Guide. Regardless, our Career Changed dogs make wonderful, loving pets and we have a few that are currently up for adoption. Visit our [website](#) to view those that are up for adoption.

Thanks to Jim and Duane, Archer, Velo and Darby have been blessed with a loving home:

“Our first experience with a career change dog from LFCDG was amazing. In April 2010, we were united with Archer, he was almost two and very quick to assume the lead role in our home. Archer had been disqualified due to his ability to catch up with squirrels very quickly. Not a trait you want your working dog to be doing on a regular basis! He was a fabulous addition to our family and was loved unconditionally until the age of nine.



After a significant amount of time, we reached out to the foundation again and to our surprise they introduced us to Velo. He had graduated and was working with a family but it didn't end up being a good match. He was returned, and subsequently became a career changed dog that was looking to be adopted. We felt like we won the lottery with him. Velo has been the most loving and supportive companion anyone could have. The experience has been so positive, that he now has a little sister named Darby that joined us a year ago after she was disqualified due to a mild form of hip dysplasia.

We feel blessed to have been able to adopt these career change dogs. They have been wonderful additions to our family. With any adoption, each will have their own unique challenges to work through, however, it is worth it. We have an incredible amount of respect and admiration for all the hard work that the people at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides do.”

Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 22 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

- D Litter: Wylie (golden retriever) and CCI Hawk (golden retriever) – 8 puppies – 3 females and 5 males born on May 9th, 2023.
- E Litter: Nuala (standard poodle) and PAWS Rico (standard poodle) – 3 puppies – 2 cream females, 1 cream male born on May 23rd, 2023.
- F Litter: Amber (black lab) and Bravo (black lab/golden X) – 7 puppies – 1 yellow female, 4 yellow males, and 2 black males born on May 28th, 2023.

Would you be interested in helping us raise these little pups? We're currently looking for fosters that live in Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, Hamilton, Niagara, Kitchener and Guelph. Foster families play a crucial role in setting up a future Dog Guide puppy for success.



Would you be interested in helping us raise these little pups?

Visit [Foster Puppy Program](#) to apply.